

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 000524

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

-----

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Turkey wants security belt in Northern Iraq - Milliyet  
Gul convinces Assad to join Iraq summit - Aksam  
Buildup continues: 37,000 U.S. troops to Gulf - Turkiye  
Bush: Saddam playing hide-and-seek - Vatan  
Iraq splits nation: Divided States of America - Sabah  
Ankara asks U.S. about alleged talks w/PKK - Milliyet  
Clerides: Denktas must stay- Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Gen. Myers: Iraq operation after Sacrifice Holiday -  
Cumhuriyet  
U.S., Turkish military bargaining over size of troop  
deployment - Radikal  
Yakis: TGS authorized for military bargaining with U.S. -  
Zaman  
UNSC foreign ministers: Inspections must continue -  
Cumhuriyet  
Diplomatic war: Germany, France, Russia, China vs. U.S., UK  
- Yeni Safak

FINANCIAL JOURNALS

Turkey Davos Summit's main topic - Dunya  
Businessmen: Turkey's trade w/Iraq might amount to \$2  
billion - Finansal Forum

BRIEFING

Iraq: Foreign ministers of Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Iran,  
Saudi Arabia and Syria will meet at a 'peace summit' on  
January 23 in Istanbul. The Syrian head of state, Bashar  
Assad, has decided to join the Istanbul meetings after  
receiving assurances from Prime Minister Gul that a second  
summit would be held in Damascus next week, papers report.  
"Milliyet" reports that the U.S., failing to secure full  
Turkish support for military action against Iraq, has  
decided to plan the most intense portion of the operation  
from the South of Iraq, and use the Northern front as a  
support and logistics center. Turkish officials have  
notified the U.S. of plans for setting up a buffer zone 12  
km from the border into Northern Iraq, Milliyet adds.  
Turkey aims to control the PKK, prevent attempts to  
establish a Kurdish state, and halt a possible wave of  
refugees. Milliyet also claims that Ankara has given the  
nod to deployment of 15,000 special U.S. troops in Turkey.  
"Cumhuriyet" claims that Gen. Myers told TGS Chief Gen.  
Ozkok that late February would be the most suitable time for  
an operation against Iraq. Myers said that the U.S., afraid  
of inciting Muslims' sensitivities, preferred to strike Iraq  
after the Muslim Sacrifice Holiday. Turkey and the U.S. are  
working on the details of a Northern front plan, according  
to Cumhuriyet. Meanwhile, papers report that U.S.  
Ambassador to Ankara Robert Pearson will brief the  
parliamentary foreign relations, human rights, budget, and  
defense committees at the Parliament on January 27.  
U.S. officials, PKK meeting allegations: The U.S. Embassy in  
Ankara has denied a January 21 report by "Milliyet" claiming  
that U.S. officials have held several meetings with  
PKK/KADEK representatives. Wednesday's papers report that  
Ankara asked Gen. Myers about the allegations, stressing  
that such activities are against the spirit of the global  
fight against terrorism. The U.S. Embassy statement  
underlined the fact that the PKK and KADEK are in the U.S.

list of terrorist organizations.

Cyprus: Greek Cypriot leader Clerides hosted a group of "Hurriyet" columnists in Nicosia, Cyprus. Hurriyet reports that Clerides said he wanted to continue peace talks with Denktas, for he believes that with a new negotiator, the bargaining will never end. Clerides described as 'positive' AKP leader Erdogan's call for a solution in Cyprus. 'Erdogan says that the policies followed thus far are wrong. However, we need to know about his notion of policies to be followed in the future,' Clerides stressed. On the other hand, Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister Cassoulides is quoted by the foreign press as saying that Denktas and the Turkish military presence on the island are the main hurdles to Cyprus' accession to the EU as a unified island. Cassoulides finds Denktas to be obsessed with the past, saying an agreement is unlikely under his leadership.

Erdogan acquitted of irregularity: AKP leader Erdogan was acquitted on Tuesday of allegations of illegal acquisition of property and wealth, papers report. The court case concerned an alleged TL256 billion increase in Erdogan's wealth between 1998-2001. On Wednesday, the Constitutional Court will decide whether to restrict Erdogan's authority as AKP chairman.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The Iraq situation"  
Yilmaz Oztuna wrote in conservative-mass appeal Turkiye (1/22): "Saddam is aware of the fact that he has absolutely no chance to withstand an American attack. Instead, he will most likely resist US and UK troops until Iraq is demolished and thousands die. In this way, he will be the 'winner' in terms of inciting hatred against the Americans and British among the people of Iraq. . On the other hand, the US apparently has various game plans for Iraq and the choice among them will be shaped according to conditions. Yet whatever the scenario might be, it is going to be a major source of concern in the region. The countries in the region are already very disturbed about the massive military build-up. . Ankara finds itself rather puzzled and in a very difficult position. Turkey is trying to support its strategic allies while at the same time tempering their war-mongering acts."

"US tactics"  
Nazli Ilicak argued in conservative Tercuman (1/22): "What is the US plan for Iraq exactly? Will Saudi Arabia be next on the list? It should be if the US is sincere enough about its Iraq arguments. Unless the real intention is to control oil fields, the US should take Saudi Arabia onto the list in order to prevent the financing of terrorism. Let's not ignore the fact that terrorists are predominantly of Saudi origin. Those who live in Saudi Arabia are full of hatred against the Saudi authoritarian regime as well as the US, which supports it. In other words, injustice in the Islamic world has become the main motive for terrorism. The US should be as determined as it is for the Iraqi regime by making the case against the Saudis as well."

PEARSON